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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

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THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

Since the first number of this periodical appeared in the closing days of 1922 many significant changes have taken place.

The big expansion in number of associations had just occurred; the large-scale centralized association had become an established fact; producer-controlled sales agencies in the terminal livestock markets were increasing; the milk marketing organizations were getting firm footholds; and cooperative buying was passing over into the field of big business.

There is now a definite tendency toward the enlargement of existing farmers' business enterprises into operating units equipped to perform more of the marketing functions.

Present-day associations are making marked progress in developing efficient handling and operating methods and in adapting their operating practices to the needs of both the producer and the markets.

The story of current activity in the field of agricultural cooperation is reflected in detail in the pages of this periodical from year to year. The significant facts dealing with the economic, educational, business, and legal phases of this farmer movement are all recorded.

This periodical is dedicated to the task of keeping the active cooperator informed on the current events of a constantly unfolding forward movement.

LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND ORGANIZATION INFORMATION
COLLECTED BY THE DIVISION OF COOPERATIVE MARKETING
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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GROUP MARKETS LEMONS FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Lemon growers in the vicinity of Upland, Calif., have been marketing lemons cooperatively for more than 35 years. In October of 1893, the Lemon Growers' Exchange of Ontario, Calif., was formed by 18 growers who agreed to work together that they "might prepare and market their lemons." During the first year ending in October, 1894, they shipped a total of 16 cars of fruit. By 1900 carlot shipments had reached 119 cars, and in 1919, 621 cars. The original association was a membership organization which functioned for 27 years, then the assets, trade-marks, etc., were sold to the Upland Lemon Growers' Association, Upland, an organization formed with capital stock. The same men held the same offices in the new organization as in the old, so it was practically a continuation of the old association.

Since 1920 the association has grown rapidly, largely because of increased lemon acreage. The figures showing this growth are as follows:

Marketing season	Fruit received (Boxes)	Cars shipped*	Gross sales	Net worth
1920-21	475,546	579	\$ 921,526	\$222,132
1921-22	321,769	390	590,324	217,332
1922-23	184,191	275	547,337	209,915
1923-24	785,772	942	871,123	213,992
1924-25	578,677	792	1,439,002	226,725
1925-26	789,019	932	1,340,512	243,526
1926-27	822,730	937	1,105,050	274,363
1927-28	591,926	853	1,791,814	293,909

* Not including fruit sent to by-products plant.

The net worth of the association, \$293,909 on September 30, 1928, was made up of capital stock issued, \$203,780; capital stock subscribed but unissued, \$10,990; reserve, \$78,176; and revolving fund balance, \$963.

The cost of operating the past season was 71.84 cents per packed box, compared with 82.29 cents per packed box the preceding season; 73.13 cents in 1925-26; and 81.25 cents in 1924-25.

Association investments in the Fruit Growers' Supply Company amounted to \$93,656 on September 30, and in the Exchange Lemon Products Company, \$36,617.

At the close of the year the association had outstanding trust notes to the amount of \$30,000 and bonds to the amount of \$20,000.

INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF GRAPES

More cars of grapes were handled by the Chautauqua and Erie Grape Growers' Cooperative Association, Westfield, N. Y., in the fall of 1928 than during the previous season. Total shipments for the 1927 season were reported as 781 cars, while in 1928 the association shipped 895 cars. In addition, 9,849 tons of grapes were furnished to the grape-juice plants. Of the carlot shipments 781 cars were of grapes in 12-quart baskets, 65 cars of grapes in 4-quart baskets, 47 cars of grapes in 2-quart baskets, and two cars of grapes in baskets of mixed sizes. The estimated returns to the members of the association were approximately \$660,000 compared with about \$670,000 for the preceding year.

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ASSOCIATION MARKETS GRAPES AND PICKLES

Four hundred and two cars of grapes were shipped during the 1928 season by the South Shore Cooperative Association, Silver Creek, N. Y. This farmer-directed marketing effort was organized in 1911 as the South Shore Growers' and Shippers' Association. In 1921 there was a reorganization and in January of 1922 business was begun under the present name.

Other products are marketed. Last year the association shipped pickles to a Pittsburgh processing plant, and also handled early peas suitable for making soup. Fertilizers, seed, spraying materials, and containers are purchased in quantity for members. In favorable years the association has transacted business to the amount of three-quarters of a million dollars.

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GRAPES WERE INSPECTED BEFORE SHIPMENT

Grapes shipped by the Keystone Cooperative Grape Association, North East, Pa., the past season, were marketed on the basis of Federal-State inspection. A certificate was issued after inspection, for each car, which certificate was an impartial statement as to the contents of the car, and was available for use in making sales. The cost of the inspection service was less than \$5 a car.

The association shipped 635 cars of 12-quart baskets, containing 15,382,625 pounds of grapes. In addition, it sold 3,558,155 pounds for conversion into grape juice at the plant at North East, and marketed 60,000 4-quart baskets of field-packed grapes.

This group of grape growers organized originally in 1901. The association sells products annually ranging in value from \$400,000 to \$700,000.

COOPERATIVE MILK MARKETING IN PHILADELPHIA

Nearly 700 members of the Inter-State Milk Producers' Association, Inc., Philadelphia, attended the twelfth annual meeting, held November 22 and 23. This is a larger number than have been present at any previous meeting. Officers of the association reported that there had been an increase in membership during the last business year of more than 1,000, and an increase of six in the number of local associations for administrative purposes. There are now 287 of these locals distributed as follows: Pennsylvania, 199; Maryland, 40; New Jersey, 29; Delaware, 18; West Virginia, 1. Since 1919 the number of locals has increased from 186 to the present number, 287.

During the year ending October 31, 1928, the association marketed 798,368,228 pounds of milk. Of this quantity more than 65 per cent came from Pennsylvania, about 14 per cent from Maryland, 11½ per cent from New Jersey, 8 per cent from Delaware, and less than one per cent from West Virginia. More than 53 per cent of the total was produced within 60 miles of Philadelphia.

Members of the association were paid approximately \$28,493,000, or about \$2,915,000 more than for the preceding season.

Nine field men during the 1928 business year visited 4,699 farms and secured signatures to contracts covering 6,050 cows. They also made 85,577 butterfat tests. Check-ups were made at 154 milk plants operated by dealers cooperating with the association. Considerable attention was given to the subject of herd improvement with the purpose of increasing the quantity of butterfat produced per cow.

The Philadelphia Inter-State Dairy Council, which operates in close cooperation with the Inter-State Milk Producers' Association, made 33,570 inspections in connection with the quality-control work. It also held 50 meetings and showed 28 reels of motion pictures. This work was largely in the producing sections and was directed toward improving the quality of the product offered for sale.

The Council's dramatic department, which operates largely in the cities, aims to stimulate the demand for milk and other dairy products. During the year this department put on 344 plays, made 611 talks, also 170 slide talks, and sent out 100 short plays to be put on by local talent.

The nutrition department gave 2,424 interviews during the year, told 3,469 stories, gave 372 lectures, made 348 showings of lantern slides and 105 showings of motion pictures. Nearly half a million individuals were reached by these methods.

The publicity department sent out more than 1,192,000 pieces of literature and made 1,442 showings of motion pictures in theaters.

Other activities of the Council included conducting schools for milk salesmen, writing a new play, preparing a motion picture, operating a cafeteria in a junior high school as an experiment, preparing and circulating booklets and circulars, including a booklet entitled "Suggested Programs for Rural Groups."

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MILK ASSOCIATION PASSES ANOTHER MILESTONE.

Sales of dairy products have increased every year since the organization of the Twin City Milk Producers' Association, St. Paul, Minn., in 1917. The association began operating April 1, 1917. Gross sales for the remainder of that year were \$1,194,672. The next year they were over \$2,000,000, and for the year ending September 30, 1928, they amounted to more than \$9,500,000.

During the early years of operation making and selling butter and cheese were the principal activities in addition to selling fluid milk. To-day several other milk products are handled. Among these are fluid cream, the sales of which amount to more than \$2,000,000 a year, skim milk, milk powders, condensed milk, casein and ice cream. The proportion of the total sales credited to each product for the year ending September 30, was as follows: fluid milk, 47 per cent; cream, 24 per cent; butter, 12 per cent; condensed whole milk, 4 per cent; cheese, 4 per cent; milk powder, 3 per cent; condensed skim milk, 2 per cent; skim milk, 2 per cent; ice cream and ice cream mix, 1 per cent; casein, 1 per cent.

The growth of this enterprise as indicated by quantity of fluid milk handled, butter and cheese sold and total sales is as follows:

Year	Milk handled (Pounds)	Butter sold (Pounds)	Cheese sold (Pounds)	Total sales #
1918	69,866,247	168,557	951,548	\$ 2,103,183
1919	88,217,181	371,128	1,734,298	3,113,408
1920	97,303,379	743,024	664,710	3,410,943
1921	147,031,313	1,705,593	1,260,749	3,796,807
1922	161,502,871	1,868,334	811,860	4,313,275
1923	215,035,772	2,681,081	1,072,842	6,568,509
1924	252,053,926	4,207,333	1,687,954	6,830,837
1925	*279,521,109	*2,645,682	*1,785,349	*7,592,690
1926	*301,070,053	*3,359,674	*1,928,017	*8,464,354
1927	*296,169,127	*2,913,380	* 839,499	*8,883,870
1928	*311,710,460	*2,370,415	*1,552,359	*9,592,920

Association began operating April 1, 1917. Sales for the remainder of the year were \$1,194,672.

* Twelve months ending September 30.

The growth in number of active stockholders has been from 4,270 in 1922 to 7,527 in 1928.

The organization had a net worth on September 30, last, of \$1,634,087, which was an increase of more than \$200,000 over that of the preceding year.

PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS PAID PRODUCERS

Patronage dividends on butterfat have been paid to patrons during each of the past four years by the Whatcom County Dairymen's Association, Bellingham, Wash. The rate of payment and the amounts have been as follows: 1925, 1 cent per pound of butterfat, \$31,026; 1926, 1 cent, \$34,318; 1927, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, \$17,468; 1928 (to November 30), 1 cent, \$52,218. Refunds and savings because of high average prices are reported by the management as amounting to more than \$284,822 in the four years.

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LOCAL MILK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

The Wayne Dairy Products Company, Richmond, Ind., a farmer-owned, milk-marketing organization, has completed its seventh year of activity, as it was formed late in 1921. The association receives milk and cream and sells bottled milk, bulk milk, buttermilk, and cottage cheese, and also makes and markets butter. Its main activity is the distribution of 4 per cent fluid milk, which is sold at 12 cents a quart. Only surplus milk and cream is used for butter.

Business transacted amounts to about \$300,000 a year. Annual patronage dividends amounted to about \$15,000. Approximately 125 stockholders are being served, also some nonmember producers.

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ADDITION TO LAND O'LAKE'S CREAMERIES PLANT

Need for more space has compelled the Land O'Lakes Creameries, Inc., Minneapolis, to begin an extensive addition to its plant. When the association moved into its present quarters in February, 1926, the accommodations seemed adequate for a number of years, but the rapid development of the business and the addition of new lines of work soon indicated that the building was too small. Printing a large share of the butter called for more space and involved the necessity for reconditioning tubs; the supply department expanded rapidly from a business of a few thousand dollars to the million dollar class; a cheese department was added, also a dry-milk department and an egg department; poultry was handled in quantities for the holiday trade; and the cream department is now shipping as many as 25 cars of cream per week. Various other lines of work have to be carried on in order to handle the products to the best advantage, and all this calls for expansion.

The new addition will be 205 feet long and three stories high, giving the building a total length of 605 feet. It is to be completed in March in time for the annual meeting of the association.

FOURTH SEASON FOR SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN POOL

All but three of the 161 delegates elected to take part in the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Cooperative Wheat Producers, Ltd., Regina, were present when the meeting opened on November 20. One of the absent delegates was so ill that he died before the meeting closed.

The management of the association reported that 77,404 contracts for marketing wheat during the second five-year period had been received up to October 31, and that these contracts covered 10,735,448 acres. The number of contracts for marketing coarse grains on file October 31 was 40,309, covering 2,669,105 acres, as follows: oats, 1,737,726 acres; barley, 566,091 acres; rye, 210,113 acres; flax, 155,175 acres.

During the 1927-28 marketing season, which was the fifth covered by the marketing contract, and the fourth of actual operation, the association handled a total of 127,591,846 bushels of wheat. This quantity, the management states, was 56 per cent of the wheat marketed from the province.

Coarse grains totaling 9,925,763 bushels were also marketed through the association. This quantity is reported as being 25.8 per cent of the quantity marketed for Saskatchewan.

The exact number of bushels of wheat handled during the four seasons of activity is given as 427,040,037. The quantities of wheat and of coarse grains handled each year are as follows:

Grain	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
	(Bushels)	(Bushels)	(Bushels)	(Bushels)
Wheat	50,251,181	129,708,034	119,488,976	127,591,846
Oats	- - - - -	6,659,646	3,363,365	} 9,925,763
Barley	- - - - -	2,569,071	2,357,181	
Flax	- - - - -	1,353,617	1,012,997	
Rye	- - - - -	783,820	1,633,796	
Total	50,251,181	141,074,188	127,856,315	137,517,609

The Saskatchewan Pool Elevators, Ltd., a subsidiary of the wheat pool, handled 106,374,576 bushels of grain through its country houses and terminal elevators. The average number of bushels for the 727 country houses was 137,841. A total of 694,274 bushels of all kinds of grain was sold to farmers for seed and feed by the pool elevators under direction of the central sales agency. In addition, 78,418 bushels of oats were purchased and distributed among pool members in sections where there was a shortage of feeding grains.

ARIZONA WOOL GROWERS PLAN TO MARKET COOPERATIVELY

One feature of the forty-second annual convention of the Arizona Wool Growers' Association, held at Flagstaff, July 10 and 11, 1928, was the report of the marketing committee appointed at a previous meeting. This committee was instructed to work out a plan for the orderly marketing of Arizona wools, and after giving much time and thought to the matter reported a suggested form of contract, and also recommended changes in the by-laws of the association. These changes, in connection with the cooperative marketing department already set up, the committee believes, will enable the members to market their wool to better advantage. The report was adopted unanimously.

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PACIFIC WOOL PRODUCERS SETTLING FOR CLIP

Recently \$200,000 was distributed by the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers, Portland, Oreg., to 1,500 Pacific Coast members who are owners of farm flocks. An additional payment of approximately three cents a pound is promised for the near future.

The association is making settlements for farm-flock wools in Idaho, eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, this pool containing 1,200,000 pounds of wool.

The management reports that the association now has the largest active membership in its history and expects to secure many new members before shearing time.

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NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING COUNCIL

Representatives of the larger wool marketing associations created the National Wool Marketing Council at a meeting in Chicago in December of 1928. Articles of association and tentative by-laws were approved and officers and directors elected.

This organization, a federation of cooperative wool marketing associations, has been set up to "correlate and strengthen the cooperative wool marketing associations in the several states." It will function in such matters as are common to the member units. Each member association is entitled to one representative in an advisory council which elects the officers and other members of the board of directors.

Among some of the objects set forth in the articles of association are the following: "to promote, foster and encourage the business of producing, shipping and marketing wool cooperatively," and "to encourage and assist in the formation and maintenance of soundly planned cooperative associations for the marketing of wool."

SASKATCHEWAN TURKEYS SHIPPED COOPERATIVELY

In order to meet the Christmas demand for turkeys the management of the Saskatchewan Cooperative Poultry Producers, Inc., Regina, Sask., arranged for receiving, loading and shipping dressed poultry at 148 points. Men were placed at the different loading stations to supervise grading, weighing and packing. The dressed poultry was assembled in car load lots and forwarded to market where it was sold by the single sales agency.

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OREGON POULTRYMEN APPROVE NEW CONTRACT

On December 20, 1928, the Pacific Cooperative Poultry Producers, Portland, Oreg., reported that more than enough hens had been signed up to make the new contract effective January 1, 1929. More than 80 per cent of the old members had signed as well as many poultrymen who had never belonged to the association.

The association management reports that the surplus at the close of the year will be nearly \$100,000 and that a dividend of 6 per cent has been declared on common stock.

The management also reports that "a fair and reasonable profit" has resulted from the storage operations of the year. More than 125,000 cases of eggs stored have been sold except for about 3,000 cases.

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WASHINGTON EGG ASSOCIATION EXPANDING

Stockholders of the Washington Cooperative Egg and Poultry Association, Seattle, are considering the question of increasing the authorized capital stock of the organization from \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000. The purpose of the increase is to furnish capital for erecting additional accommodations and for operating purposes. The association has under construction mills for manufacturing feeds for the growers in two districts where the service is not in keeping with the needs. A new candling station is being established and one of the existing warehouses for the storage of supplies is being enlarged. Machinery for a feed mill will be added later.

Because of an increase of more than 1,400 new members during the past year, there is need for additional working capital.

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION MARKETS HAY AND COTTON.

Since its organization in 1921 the Artesia Alfalfa Growers Association, Artesia, N. Mex., has broadened its field of activity until now it is serving its 300 patrons in numerous ways. The original purpose of the association was to market the alfalfa hay produced by the 83 charter members. The first year 5,800 tons of hay were handled. Shortly after its formation the organization undertook the purchase of farm supplies with the result that to-day large quantities of coal, oil, farm machinery and building material are purchased and resold to members. In addition this association operates three cotton gins which last season turned out about 10,000 bales of cotton. The first gin was built with money borrowed on the notes of the members of the association. In two years the earnings of the gin were sufficient to repay the money borrowed, whereupon the notes were returned to the farmers along with certificates showing the equity of each in the enterprise. In 1926 the second and third gins were erected.

Hay is handled on the basis of \$1 a ton with a refund at the close of the year of such amount as remains after expenses have been met. All hay is sold on grade. Eight per cent per year is paid on members' investments in their association. The members' cotton is marketed cooperatively as well as their hay and alfalfa seed.

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WALNUT ASSOCIATION MAKES PROMPT SETTLEMENT.

Eight million dollars distributed to growers in ten weeks in payment for walnuts in the first pool, is the 1928 record of the California Walnut Growers' Association, Los Angeles. The pack in this pool amounted to 33,500,000 pounds. Not all these nuts have been sold but the market conditions were so favorable that the management felt justified in borrowing money to make a final payment before the holidays. Returns from this pool amounted to an average price of 24 cents net to members for all grades from the best to the poorest. Sixty-eight per cent of the year's crop graded "Diamond" brand.

An important factor in the successful sales of the year was that the entire carry over of 1927 nuts was sold before the new crop came on the market. The 1928 pack was only slightly over 47 per cent of that of 1927 crop, and the association could have sold more nuts had it had them.

By rigid economy in every department the operating expenses were held down to the lowest figure in four years, the central association's expenses amounting to only $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of opening prices. Of this total one per cent was the usual cash discount to buyers, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent was commissions to brokers, $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for advertising, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for regular operating expenses.

BOUGHT COOPERATIVELY FOR THIRTEEN YEARS

A Saskatchewan man joined the Young Cooperative Society in 1914, buying a \$20 share. He bought supplies through the society and each year left his patronage dividends with the organization until the share was worth \$100, the limit set. Then he continued to leave his annual dividends as loan capital until the sum reached the limit of \$400, since which time he has drawn his dividends. He now owns \$100 share capital, \$400 loan capital, and has received \$359 cash as interest and dividends.

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MICHIGAN STORE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

A Michigan store which started in a small way in 1917 and has made steady progress during the ensuing years, is the Workers' Cooperative Society, Marquette, Mich. It began business in June, 1917, with capital of \$2,324, handling general merchandise, and in 1921 opened a branch store and meat market in North Marquette. These enterprises prospered so well that they required a new and larger building in two years. With the exception of two years the records have always shown a favorable balance. Sales are now about \$100,000 annually.

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INDIANA FARM BUREAU PURCHASING MANY SUPPLIES

A substantial increase in membership and a large gain in volume of business, are two features of the work of the past year, as reported by the Indiana Farm Bureau Purchasing Department, Inc., Indianapolis. Last year 23 counties held stock in the purchasing department. Now 33 more counties have become incorporated and have earned stock in the purchasing department which has helped them to organize their service departments.

With the increased membership has come a larger volume of business. Sales of fertilizer totaled 34,040 tons in 1927 and 36,315 in 1928, although there was a decrease in acreage of wheat planted. Much of this was high analysis fertilizer. It was shipped into every Indiana county except two.

Sales of commercial feeds increased by 90 per cent, the figure for 1927 being 8,999 tons, and for 1928, 17,134 tons. Lubricating oil sold in 10 months in 1927 totaled 13,799 gallons; 10 months in 1928, 38,330 gallons. Sales of coal increased nearly 20 per cent, from 1,072 cars to 1,283 cars.

Sales of grass seed dropped from 14,073 bushels to 12,273 bushels, partly because Indiana farmers produced an unusually large crop of clover seed last year and many men bought from their neighbors.

INCREMENTS OF COOPERATION

Many of the substantial benefits to producers from successful cooperative associations are difficult of exact computation in dollars and cents. Frequently benefits are complacently accepted with no real recognition or appreciation of them. Men's memories are short and the recollection of conditions that existed prior to the formation of an association is dim or nonexistent. Members or prospective members of a successful association should ask themselves the question, what would conditions be with respect to the marketing of my products or the purchase of my supplies if the association were not in operation? The healthy local association has generally had a distinct effect on the local price level. That, because of such associations, dealers are stimulated to reduce margins, render additional services, and offer better prices for products which they are buying, is generally accepted.

In the case of purchasing associations handling feed, there have been instances in which the price of feed handled commercially was reduced several dollars a ton over night on account of the formation of such an association. The quality of feed sold farmers has been greatly improved by purchasing associations. Many of the larger associations have expanded markets and developed a preference for their products which has enabled them to return premium prices to their members.

The advantages which accrue to members of cooperative associations through having their products graded and sold on a grade basis, thus enabling the growers who produce the best products to obtain the best prices, are frequently overlooked. The old practice, and that still followed quite generally by commercial operators, is to buy on a "run of the mine" basis. Comparison of prices received by members and nonmembers is an uncertain standard for appraising the value of an association. Grading which results in a premium price for a premium product, furnishes a motive for producing such a product.

Many of the larger associations have had a stabilizing influence on the market, the benefits of which are difficult of measurement. Associations often render their members more service with respect to the marketing of their products than is customarily done by others. These services often accrue to members although the "apparent" returns or charges are the same. Cooperation, generally speaking, has definitely raised the plane of competition; and has reduced practices which were disadvantageous to the producer. The increments of cooperation are reflected not only in increased returns but in ways that are not perceived by the thoughtless or the superficial analyst.

L. S. Hulbert

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

In talking with the members of a cooperative, one is often impressed with the extent to which the member thinks of the association as something apart, in the activities of which he has little to say. He is prone to blame "the management" for many things with which he does not agree, and to admit that, in the main, he has exerted little, if any, effort to understand what has been done and why.

In the light of the facts, such an attitude would be amusing, were it not so serious. In the first place, the members are the owners of the cooperative, and are the sole legal source of control. They are in fact the association. Because of this, each and every individual member has certain definite rights, and also some very serious responsibilities.

The individual's rights consist largely in the voting privilege, in receiving full and complete information regarding the activities of the association, in being accorded equitable treatment with all other members, and in an undivided share in the common property.

Like many other rights which are conferred upon citizens by law, these will not be forced upon members; it is their responsibility to claim these rights, if they are worth while, and few will argue that they are not. Therefore, there is a serious responsibility resting on every member to attend every formal membership meeting, and take an active part in the proceedings, voting as intelligently as possible on every question which comes up. It is at such meetings that the policies are determined. It is through the voting privilege that boards of directors are selected, and this is the way in which the individual member asserts his right to share in management.

It is the member's responsibility to seek full and complete information, and especially is this true when it concerns a rumor which casts doubts on the usefulness, the integrity, or stability of the organization. Before considering such reports it is necessary that "full and complete information" be at hand. This information can usually be obtained easily, and discussion founded on any other basis is idle gossip, unworthy of a self-respecting American farmer.

There are other responsibilities which an individual assumes in becoming a member of a cooperative association. Many of them, it would seem, are never given thought or consideration by the majority of members. When the responsibilities inherent in membership are accepted seriously and active intelligent effort is made to claim the rights and fulfill the duties involved in membership, then, and not until then, will many of the present problems disappear.

A. V. Swarthout

SUGGESTED READING FOR COOPERATORS. No. 11

A notable addition to cooperative literature is "The Legal Status of Agricultural Cooperation," by Dr. E. G. Nourse, Agricultural Economist, Institute of Economics, Washington, D. C. Dr. Nourse is an economist, an educator, and an author, and in all three capacities has kept in close touch with the cooperative movement. Before assuming the duties of his present position in 1925, he was professor of agricultural economics in Iowa State College, and made and directed studies of a number of cooperatives of that state. Two outstanding publications during this period were "Fifty Years of Farmers' Elevators in Iowa," a State College bulletin, and "The Economic Philosophy of Cooperation," a paper read before the American Economic Association.

Dr. Nourse has been one of the moving spirits in organizing and carrying on the American Institute of Cooperation, serving as chairman of the program committee and a member of the board of trustees.

The volume under review is one of a series on "Investigations in Agricultural Economics" issued by the Institute of Economics. The author states that it is not offered as a legal textbook, but that "his concern has been to analyze the economic ideas and purposes which seek expression through cooperative organization, and to ascertain in what degree legislatures and courts have comprehended these aspirations and thought it either prudent or safe to give them recognition in statute and case law."

The picture presented is that of an evolving institution; the farmers struggling since the middle of the last century to establish successful organizations for handling and marketing their products, and to establish a satisfactory legal status for such organizations. As there was no general law under which they could organize according to Rochdale principles, special statutes were needed, and the fight to secure and defend such statutes has been continuous. Michigan led with the first cooperative statute in 1865, Massachusetts followed in 1866, and other states some years later.

In tracing the development of cooperative legislation, the author discusses the underlying economic reasons for the many and varied situations which are constantly arising in matters of policy and practice, thus presenting "legal materials from the economic point of view," and giving a broader understanding of the issues involved. This is supplemented by accounts of decisions in numerous courts of cases involving cooperative associations.

In the final chapter the author lays aside his impersonal role and offers his own conclusions as to the "soundness and desirability of agricultural cooperative associations in their present legal status." The reader will value the conclusions of one who has made such an exhaustive study of the subject and presented it so ably.

Chastina Gardner

EGYPTIAN COOPERATIVES DESCRIBED IN THESIS

"La Coopération Agricole en Égypte," is discussed by Ahmed Midhat, in a doctoral thesis submitted to the faculty of the University of Dijon. The publication is in French. It tells of the economic resources of Egypt, of the history of the cooperative movement, and of the Egyptian agricultural syndicates, or cooperative societies of various types. The law regulating the operation of the societies is given in an appendix.

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CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ISSUES REPORT

Much valuable information regarding the cooperatives of Canada has been brought together by the Department of Labour of Canada and published in a bulletin entitled "First Annual Report on Cooperative Associations in Canada, 1928." A concise statement of the number of associations in the Dominion and their membership by groups, is followed by a directory of the organizations, arranged by commodities for each province. Figures showing sales made by a number of the leading cooperatives in 1927 are summarized and a table shows sales and financial status of many societies.

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SIXTH YEAR OF "A. C." IS COMPLETED

This issue of Agricultural Cooperation starts the seventh year of the biweekly circular, the December 22 number completing Volume VI. An index for Vol. VI is in preparation and will soon be available to those who desire copies. Requests should be made promptly.

A few copies of most of the 1928 numbers are available for completing files of readers who wish to have their copies bound for permanent use as a source of information on farmers' cooperative enterprises. The issues of November 24 and December 8, 1928, are exhausted. Persons having copies of these issues which they do not need will confer a favor by returning them to the editor for use in completing library and other files of Volume VI.

Persons receiving Agricultural Cooperation, who have no special need for it, are requested to so advise the editor in order that their names may be removed from the mailing list to make room for the names of others who have use for the material being compiled. The number of copies issued is limited and it is highly desirable that each copy be put to as broad a use as possible.

REPORTED BY THE ASSOCIATIONS

Both Alberta and Saskatchewan have organized Cooperative Wholesale Societies to serve as purchasing organizations. and both societies were planning to begin business on January 1, 1929.

During the five months from July 1 to December 12, 1928, the membership of the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association, Greenwood, Miss., increased by 417, which was an increase of more than 20 per cent. These new members represent 72,001 bales of cotton.

The Tulare Cooperative Poultry Association, Tulare, Calif., has recently completed a modern building which enables the association to carry on its work more efficiently. A part of the funds needed were borrowed from the members and \$25 building-fund certificates issued for two years, bearing 8 per cent interest.

Checks to the amount of \$109,326 have recently been distributed to members of the Texas Farm Bureau Cotton Association, Dallas, as refunds of the sums withheld from the 1922 settlement for use as working capital. In 1927 the association returned \$88,707 as a refund for deductions from the 1921 settlement.

An annual dividend of \$42,296 is being paid to the patrons of the Dairymen's Cooperative Creamery of Boise Valley, Caldwell, Idaho, for butterfat marketed during the last business year. The dividend is at the rate of 2 cents per pound for more than 2,000,000 pounds of butterfat delivered by the more than 2,000 patrons of the organization.

A survey of the cooperative organizations of Pennsylvania, made by the Pennsylvania State College, showed approximately 75 local non-stock associations, of which number 50 were purchasing feed, seed and supplies, and 25 were marketing their produce. A limited number were both buying and selling. These associations had about 8,000 members. Besides these local associations there are a number of farmer-owned, stock associations which are handling a large volume of business.

Cooperative societies have been established on a large scale in the Netherlands in practically every branch of agriculture, according to a consular report from Rotterdam. These commodity associations are federated in an overhead organization the English name of which is the Netherland Agricultural Committee, and this committee works in close cooperation with the Netherland Department of Agriculture. During 1927 this organization purchased and distributed supplies among its members to the amount of \$21,775,750.

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- Frear, D. W. Where the Market Gardeners Cooperate. The Farmer, St. Paul, Minn., December 8, 1928, p. 5.
- Linstead, E. H. Purpose of Existence of Texas Cotton Growers' Finance Corporation. The Farm Bureau News, Dallas, Tex., December 15, 1928, p. 2.
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- Taber, L. J. Our Greatest Opportunity is at Hand: No Doubt about the Ability of the Farmer to Hold His Own if He Will Properly Organize. Wheat Growers' Journal, Wichita, Kans., December 1, 1928, p. 6.
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- Twigg, H. J. The Economic Advance of British Cooperation, 1913-1926. Cooperative Union, Ltd., Manchester, England.
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